— Circumstances leading to termination.
— Whether adequate efforts were made to protect the commercial interests of Air India, while terminating the agreement.
— Whether adequate efforts were made to protect commercial interests of Air India in the arbitration proceedings.
— Any other related issue that may crop up during investigations.

(c) It may not be possible to lay down a specific time frame for completion of investigations at this stage.

Stationing of Liaison Officer at Tribhuwan Airport (Kathmandu)

3214. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned India for IA security officer at Kathmandu as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 31 st January, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that in view of hijacking of IC-814 Government have reiterated its requests to Nepal Government to grant permission for stationing a liaison officer at Tribhuvan Airport;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Nepal Government thereto; and

(d) whether the Nepal Government have come out with any other proposal for safety of passengers of Indian Aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In January 2000, a team of civil aviation experts visited Nepal to identify the requirement of security measures for Indian Airlines. Based on the team's report, Government of India have held discussions with His Majesty's Government of Nepal regarding additional security measures consistent with international civil aviation practices and procedures. Considerable progress has been made but some procedures need to be further refined and finalised.

Civil Aviation Academy

3215. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security proposes to set up a Civil Aviation Academy;

(b) if so, the objectives of the said Academy; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up and where?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up a Civil Aviation Security Training Academy is at a nascent stage. The objective of the Academy is to ensure effectiveness of the national civil aviation security programme by developing and implementing suitable training programmes.

(c) Does not arise.

Stranded HAJ Pilgrims at Jeddah

3216. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India left Haj Pilgrims stranded in Jeddah;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There were, indeed, some initial glitohes but flights are on schedule and the Haj operation is likley to be completed ahead of schedule by 21.4.2000.

International Status to Airports

3217. SHRI A VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 177 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2000 and state:

(a) whether any State Government has submitted representations to include new airport for international status; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (b) It has now been decided to declare existing domestic airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Goa, Amritsar, Guwahati and the new Cochin Airport at Nedumbassery as international airports.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.